

**ARMY GUILD OF BELLRINGERS**  
**MINUTES OF THE AGM ON SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014**  
**St Mary the Virgin Buckland (Reading Room)**

**Members Present:**

Maggy Vince (Chairman)

John Davey (Secretary)

Ian Cullum, David Cullum, David Fox, Val Fox, Derek Knowles, Peter Leigh, Rod Pagdin, Ian Wiltshire, John Verity, Bridget White RAF, Michael White RAF

**Apologies received from:**

Peter Cates, Sally Cates, Mary Coe, Andrew Frost, Elizabeth Keatings, John Longsbrough, Roy Jones, Mike Suttill, Colin Sweeney, Steve Turpin,

The meeting opened at 1619 hrs

1. The chairman welcomed and thanked all members present. Maggy also thanked the vicar of St James Longborough for taking the service. Maggy thanked John Davey for arranging the AGM towers.
2. Loss of members  
nil
3. The minutes of the 2013 AGM were passed as a true copy and signed by the Chairman.
4. Matters from last year's AGM.
  - a. A Guild peal will be arranged by David Fox this year. The First peal was Plain Bob Major. Thanks were passed to all the ringers and to David Fox for arranging the peal.
  - b. Tri Service Peal. The band got the peal which had 2 AGB Members. We will pay 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the cost of a peal board.
5. **Chairman's report:** Thanks to all who have attended today, and many thanks to John Verity for organising the day. Also, thanks to those who took the time to send their apologies. Welcome to new members.

We have had a relatively successful year, with a good attendance at the Tri-Service meeting in the Bicester area in July, and with enough members at the September meeting in the Salisbury area. Personally, I have been unable to attend any meetings of the Royal Navy or RAF Guilds, but if you did I am sure they went well.

Our Ringing Master, David Fox, arranged the first ever peal for the Army Guild – Plain Bob Major - which was rung at Sproxtton, Leicestershire on 21 Sept 2013.

The RN Guild arranged a Tri-Service peal – also Plain Bob Major - which was rung at Gillingham Kent on 8 Jan 2014, the centenary of the first Armed Forces peal. Rod Pagdin and Ian Culham were our members of the band.

There has been a suggestion that a peal board should be produced to record this peal, with the cost split between the three Guilds. The treasurer will talk about this. Unfortunately, the PCC at Sproxtton will not permit us to hang a board in the tower/church. We should decide how to record this peal for posterity.

Our membership has remained stable at 31, which is re-assuring, however recruitment of new members is the only way to survive. As you are aware the proposed merger of the three Service Guilds will not happen in the near future. Whether it will at some point is only

speculation, however the “groundwork” put in is not wasted, as there is now an outline plan of the way forward when it is required.

Several of you replied to our letter sent out in November, and here are a few points.

- All wanted the Guild to continue
- We need more members
- We don't really know how to recruit successfully
- We are too spread out, so should we consider regional meetings.
- Some members believe they are not “good enough ringers” to attend meetings. (This is unfounded as the only requirement is to be able to ring up and down – ie. Able to handle a bell safely. All ringing levels are welcome)
- Commemorating the start of WW 1 is dubious (prefer it to be 2018), but good idea for Waterloo anniversary in 2015. Ian Culham has offered to organise a 6 bell peal if requested.

I'd like to finish by thanking John Davey, for all his work as Secretary/Treasurer. David Fox as ringing master, and Andrew Frost for all his work on the website. Between them they do virtually all that needs to be done!!!!.

6. **Secretary's Report:** As secretary a big thank you for all the returns over the last year. A thank you to Andrew Frost for maintaining the Guild web site.
7. **Treasurer's report:** The balance stands at £953.35. I have spent £40.00 so far this year on the Ringing World and will have to pay out £140.00 for expenses for the AGM. We have agreed that we would pay 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the cost of a peal board. Last year we had a £94.00 excess of expenditure over income. Membership stands at 32.
8. **New Members:**
  - a. Ms Louise Gay
  - b. Mr Alan Pink
  - c. Mrs Mary Coe
  - d. Mr Ian Wiltshire
9. **Retirement of Members:**
  - a. Colin Sweeney (Retired)
  - b. Anita Sherriff (No Subs)
  - c. Robert Sherriff (No Subs)
  - d. Andrew Buxton (No Subs)
10. **Election of Guild Officers:**
  - a. Secretary: John Davey
  - b. Ringing Master: David FoxBoth elected unopposed  
John Davey informed the meeting that he would be standing for only 1 year and that at next year's AGM 2015, the Guild would need to elect Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
11. **Future of the Guild:** Maggy Vince spoke about the way forward, and we will stay as we are.
12. **Diary:**
  - a. Army Sept Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> Sept: NO MEETING. Ringing Road Show instead
  - b. RAF BOB Meeting: Details to follow
  - c. RN Trafalgar Meeting: Details to follow

**13. AOB:**

- a. John Davey spoke about the RAF Guild and asking for members to ring in Qtr Peals. Details had been sent out before the meeting.
- b. John Davey passed on the number of hits for the last year on the Guild web site. Total 5410
- c. John Davey spoke about the Ringing World Road Show and would we like to have a stand. It was felt that we could not man a stand by ourselves, but he would try the other Guilds.
- d. The members had a debate about the September meeting, and it was decided that we would try the first Saturday in October for 2015.

**14. Date of next Meeting:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015.. Arranged by Rod Padgin. To be held in the Loughborough.

M Vince  
Chairman